

ABSTRACT

5 A method for a financial services provider to securely process corporate payment requests includes a step of issuing a primary digital certificate to a primary certificate holder of a corporation. The primary certificate authorizes the primary certificate holder to designate a plurality of holders of secondary digital certificates that are derivative from the primary certificate, each of the primary and plurality of secondary certificates including unique identifying information and/or an indication of authority of the holder of the certificate. Pending corporate payment requests are collected for clearing against the account of the corporation, and a pending payment statement is periodically generated, the statement including the collected pending payment requests. Thereafter, each of the collected pending payment requests is required to be validated by an authenticated primary or secondary certificate holder having the authority to validate the payment requests and only the validated corporate payment requests of the pending payment statement are cleared (paid) against the corporate account.